



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 609, Olympia, WA 98507
(360) 902-1940 Fax (360) 902-2091

Washington Crop Weather

Released: May 3, 2004, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: May 2, 2004
CWP WA-CW1804

Heavy Winds, Minimal Damage Apple Bloom Almost Completed

Field Crops

Winter wheat remained in fair to good condition. Cutworms and wireworms were causing problems for small grains in Klickitat County along with some alfalfa weevil damage. Spring cereal conditions were lowered in Adams, Lincoln, and Benton Counties due to hot, dry conditions. Grass cutting for silage took place in many counties throughout Washington. Cheat grass has started to dry up and turn brown in Spokane and Pend Oreille Counties. Turfgrass growers in Thurston County were irrigating to compensate for lack of soil moisture. Christmas tree growers in Thurston and Grays Harbor continue to report infestations of the Cooley Spruce Gall Adelgids on Douglas Firs.

Livestock

Cows and calves in Stevens County were being branded. Livestock producers continued to harvest forage and apply liquid manure to harvested fields in Grays Harbor. Range and pasture conditions were 6% very poor, 3% poor, 30% fair, 60% good, and 1% excellent.

Fruits and Vegetables

Apple bloom almost completed and strawberry bloom continued. Benton and Yakima Counties reported minimal fruit damage due to recent weather conditions. Honeybees took advantage of the warm weather and increased swarming activity. Asparagus harvest continued. Carrot and sweet corn planting continued in the East. In Franklin County, some onions and carrots may need to be replanted. Walla Walla County was spraying peas for insects. In the West, producers were cultivating fields for sweet corn planting.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.6
Last Week	6.1

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	6	29	65	0
Subsoil	4	23	71	2
Irrigation Water	0	5	95	0
Hay & Roughage	0	1	88	11

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2003	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	99	98	94	90
Spring Wheat Emerged	86	79	66	63
Winter Wheat Headed	5	1	2	1
Barley Planted	99	97	92	83
Barley Emerged	89	77	59	53
Potatoes Planted	80	75	81	79
Potatoes Emerged	40	38	27	31
Corn Planted	55	41	62	48
Corn Emerged	11	6	8	3
Dry Edible Beans Planted	94	75	29	9
Proc. Green Peas Planted	97	90	75	57
Dry Peas Planted	95	90	64	55
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	4	0	6	2

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	8	38	45	7
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	13	86	1
Spring Wheat Dryland	1	10	50	32	7
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	14	85	1
Barley Dryland	0	5	46	39	10
Barley Irrigated	0	0	15	85	0
Potatoes	0	0	6	94	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	41	59	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: Brilliant golden corridors illuminated the rural landscape as Scotch broom reached its peak of bloom along roadsides. The broom was at least two weeks earlier than normal due to the unseasonably warm temperatures. Record breaking temperatures reached the high 80's in the week and provided a bonanza for ag producers who were cultivating fields for sweet corn planting. The above average temperatures had many ag producers worried that the spring season may be very dry. Livestock producers continued to harvest forage and apply liquid manure to harvested fields. U-Pick vegetable farms were planting warm season vegetable crops earlier than normal due to the warm soil temperatures. Christmas tree growers reported infestations of Cooley spruce gall adelgids on Douglas fir trees.

Jefferson: We are in the second year of a serious drought. . . less than 2 inches of rain this month when our average is usually 9 inches. We had our first small forest fire this week, of what we fear may be a record wildfire year. Humidity in the woods was about 18 percent. Spring crop starts were doing well. Large fields were plowed but not yet planted. Watershed council was looking seriously at in-stream flows this fall. The first Farmer's Market was a real success with earlier small vegetables and starts.

Pierce/S. King: There were no unusual situations or crop damage reported. Lettuce and flowers were growing. The first cutting of silage was underway.

Thurston: Unseasonably warm temperatures early in the week, continued to expedite plant development earlier than normal. The lack of rain had ag producers speculating that we may have a very dry summer. Turfgrass growers were irrigating fields to compensate for the lack of soil moisture. Livestock producers continued making silage under nearly ideal harvest conditions. Christmas tree growers started spraying Douglas fir for the control of cooley spruce gall adelgids, which were hatching two weeks earlier than normal due to the warm weather. Scotch broom was in full bloom throughout the county.

Skagit/Island/San Juan: The weather has been dry. Rain is needed. No crop losses have been reported.

Snohomish/N. King: The weather was dry with a few scattered showers. Temperatures reached the 80's early in the week, followed by a windstorm on Tuesday that caused widespread damage. Hundreds of trees throughout the county were blown over, causing thousands of power outages. Fieldwork continued. Grass harvest was going well with lots of it being put up as silage. Apple blossom was over for most varieties. Strawberries were coming into bloom. Honey bees took advantage of the good weather by increased swarming activity.

Whatcom: Temperatures were warmer this past week, with a couple of light rain showers. Most of the first grass silage cutting was in. Field preparation and planting were in full swing.

Central

Benton: Asparagus harvest continued. High winds had minimal effect on the fruit crops. Irrigation and weed control were other activities.

Benton (2nd Report): Temperatures were above normal. Some producers reported damage to wheat due to hot winds received early in the week.

Chelan/Douglas: High winds were received with gusts up to 65 mph. There has been no crop damage reported.

Franklin: Strong winds interrupted field activities and damaged some crops. Some fields of carrots and onion may have to be replanted. The first cutting of alfalfa began. Asparagus harvest continued. Planting of potatoes, carrots, and sweet corn also continued.

Grant: High winds and accompanying erosion may require replanting of some fields.

Kittitas: Irrigation was in full swing on pasture and hay ground. Farmers were leveling, harrowing, and picking rocks; preparing

corn fields for planting. Range conditions were drier than normal.

Kittitas (2nd Report): Additional cutbacks in irrigation water supplies are likely. Normal spring fieldwork activities continued. Range and pasture conditions were fair with rain needed.

Klickitat: Cutworms and wireworms were a problem for small grains in some areas. Early alfalfa weevil damage was evident.

Klickitat (2nd Report): Warm, dry weather caused poor pasture conditions to continue.

Okanogan/Ferry: Lots of spring planting was going on during the week.

Okanogan/Ferry (2nd Report): The county received high winds of up to 60 mph. No crop damage has been reported.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 1 to 12 degrees above normal, with no precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Adams: Hot and dry conditions lessened topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions. Spring cereal conditions were also lowered after last weeks weather. Overall, winter wheat remained spotty but in fair to good condition. Additional precipitation is needed to maintain the current crop condition.

Adams (2nd Report): Moisture was still badly needed. The windstorm on Tuesday night, April 27, caused a recently reseeded CRP field to be rock hard with no vegetation.

Lincoln: Hot, dry conditions persisted causing topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions to be lowered. Weather conditions also resulted in an increase of spring cereals in poor condition. Winter wheat remained in good to fair condition, but additional precipitation was needed to maintain and improve crop conditions.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: A week of a lot of wind and a small shower did not amount to very much rain. A large amount of the spring seeded crops were emerged and looked pretty good. The lack of significant rainfall in March and April was a concern. Reports from livestock producers were that the cheat grass was already starting to dry up and turn brown. This is alarming since

it is only the first week in May and we are normally just turning livestock out on pasture. The repeated drought conditions for three plus years is not helping the pasture stands either.

Stevens: Cows and calves were being branded. Alfalfa was in good condition.

Walla Walla: Heavy winds mid-week and severe blowing dust conditions caused some temporary road closures in the area. Light rain followed the next morning, but it didn't slow fieldwork too much. Crops throughout the area were looking better. Producers were spraying peas for bugs.

Whitman: High wind early in the week, interrupted field spraying and was very drying to the soil surface. Wheat field conditions continued to be rated mostly good.

Whitman (2nd Report): Spring weather conditions remained good. Spring fieldwork was coming to a close. Spraying of winter wheat continued.

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Weekly Weather Statistics

May 3, 2004

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	35	74	55	6	38	24	0	0	0.03	-0.55	1	24.29	-5.34	82	116
Everett	41	78	59	8	65	49	13	13	0.01	-0.55	1	23.69	-5.92	80	117
Hoquiam	38	80	58	8	57	42	9	9	0.01	-0.84	1	56.55	-3.66	94	146
Kelso	37	86	60	9	71	50	11	11	0.00	-0.66	0	28.38	-11.35	71	105
Olympia	32	82	57	8	51	38	4	4	0.00	-0.59	0	41.02	-3.98	91	132
Sea-Tac	40	79	60	9	73	53	14	14	0.00	-0.43	0	29.51	-2.76	91	113
Shelton	32	81	57	6	52	28	2	2	0.00	-0.70	0	57.49	-1.36	98	134
Tacoma	36	81	58	6	56	35	8	8	0.00	-0.54	0	28.05	-6.50	81	117
Vancouver	40	85	61	10	79	58	15	15	0.00	-0.56	0	27.30	-8.21	77	123
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	35	84	59	10	65	46	9	9	0.03	-0.08	1	6.06	-1.20	83	72
Omak	32	82	59	10	64	49	8	8	0.00	-0.31	0	7.77	-2.80	74	59
Stampede Pass	30	70	50	14	20	20	0	0	0.00	-0.94	0	61.41	-10.17	86	135
Wenatchee	44	82	62	8	86	48	21	17	0.13	-0.01	1	7.36	0.76	112	62
Yakima AP	35	82	58	6	61	32	6	6	0.00	-0.07	0	5.27	-1.18	82	57
NORTHEAST															
Colville	32	82	58	9	57	42	10	10	0.04	-0.35	1	6.37	-9.58	40	56
Deer Park	28	76	54	5	30	15	0	0	0.00	-0.35	0	14.17	-0.06	100	99
Spokane AP	34	77	57	8	47	33	4	4	0.00	-0.28	0	9.08	-3.47	72	87
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	36	81	60	5	70	28	8	2	0.00	-0.10	0	3.66	-2.03	64	51
Moses Lake	32	81	59	4	63	21	5	-1	0.01	-0.09	1	3.91	-1.78	69	51
Quincy	38	80	59	6	67	30	10	6	0.00	-0.11	0	3.76	-2.44	61	46
Ritzville	36	80	57	8	51	35	6	6	0.00	-0.21	0	7.49	-1.52	83	59
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	36	84	62	4	82	20	18	5	0.02	-0.05	1	4.85	-0.47	91	53
Pasco	33	86	61	4	76	23	15	8	0.00	-0.11	0	5.48	-0.53	91	62
Pullman	35	76	54	7	36	23	0	0	0.08	-0.27	1	13.08	-3.53	79	88
Whitman Miss.	33	83	58	5	55	21	7	7	0.07	-0.21	2	13.47	2.66	125	93
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	30	75	54	3	36	17	3	3	0.17	-0.25	1	9.32	-10.56	47	80
Lewiston ID	37	82	60	7	75	38	18	18	0.07	-0.21	1	7.01	-1.53	82	69

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2003

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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